

Bemidji Area OEHE Network:



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INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM EVENTS

The Bemidji Area Environmental Health Services Section is scheduling an Introduction to Injury Prevention Course (formerly called Level I) in Green Bay, Wisconsin October 2nd-5th. The training session will be held at the Radisson near the airport. Registration materials will be forthcoming. Contact Jennifer Falck (Oneida), Stewart Watson or Diana Kuklinski if interested in attending.

The Minnesota Lifesavers Conference is scheduled for September 13-14th at the Black Bear Hotel/Casino. The Conference is sponsored by the Fond du Lac Band.

The focus of the conference will be on drinking and driving and occupant protection issues. An optional Child Passenger Safety Certification training will be held on the 12th with an afternoon session for students and an evening session for adults. To participate in the conference please call Antoinelle Benally-Thompson at 218-878-9713 or e-mail her at antoinellebenally@fdlrez.com

EXCESS ITEMS

All Area Tribes area welcome to the office partitions that were replaced by the modular office furniture purchased for the Area Office staff. OEHE alone has about thirty gray or orange cloth covered partitions available. To schedule a time to come and look at the partitions or to pick them up call Bruce at 444-0501 or Office Services at 444-0459.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

The Office of Worker's Compensation Programs has new numbers for injured employees to call for

information about case status, payments, reimbursement of medical treatment and travel expenses. The central IVR (interactive voice response) system number is 1-866-OWCP-IVR (6927487). The number may also be used by medical providers, pharmacists and employing agency staff. You must have case numbers, SS# and Date of Injury to get information on a specific case. Another number (the Call Center) is available at 1-866-999-FECA (3322) for answers to frequently asked questions

NIOSH DENTAL SURVEY

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health conducted a survey of all IHS dental clinic employees to inquire about musculoskeletal symptoms, work practices and the work environment. Findings indicated that dental hygienists and dental assistants had a higher rate of work-related musculoskeletal disorders than dentists. Risk factors included: years at present location, comfort of one's chair, lack of fiber optics, location of handpiece, work load, poor lighting, poor view of the mouth and patient in 9-10 o'clock position. Some things managers may do: replace older rear delivery equipment with "continental style" over-the-patient equipment, eliminate twisting, purchase ergonomically designed instruments and ensure that existing equipment is functioning properly. Employees can reduce time spent in one position, maintain proper posture and take mini-breaks. For a copy of the dental survey, see your environmental health officer.

POPS

A one day session on pollution prevention will be held at the Black Bear Hotel Conference Room near Cloquet,

MN on July 26th. The conference is for health care providers and includes the following objectives:

- Identify medical and environmental hazards
- Techniques to reduce waste
- Learn about environmentally friendly products
- Dangers of mercury and other materials
- Learn to conduct waste audits at medical facilities
- Integrate pollution prevention with waste reduction

Clinic, hospital and nursing home staff persons are invited to attend. Contact Deanna Himango at 218-878-8023 for registration information.

NEW OSHA RECORDKEEPING

January 1, 2002 new rules on employees records will go into effect. The rules will amount to a revision of rules that have been in effect since the 1970's. Some aspects of the changes involve increased employee involvement, simpler forms and more flexibility in using computers to meet requirements. Comments are being sought by OSHA on rules relating to hearing loss and ergonomic issues. See the rules at www.osha.gov

AREA OFFICE FITNESS

The Area Office staff have begun taking part in a fitness challenge competition. Five teams have thus far signed up to track their exercise miles on a weekly basis. Each mile of walking will be reported and 3 miles are credited for each hour of other strenuous activity. Reporting is based upon the honor system and is turned in to the Area Director's office. A chart will be maintained for interested persons to check progress. The competition ends October 1st.

PERSONNEL

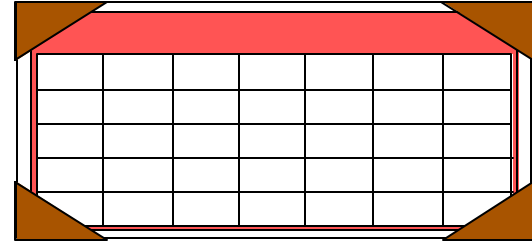
Kit Grosch, formerly the Rhinelander Service Unit Sanitarian serving Keweenaw Bay, Stockbridge-Munsee, Hannahville and Lac Vieux Desert, has been selected to serve as the Nashville Area Institutional Environmental Health Officer. Kit just recently completed the two year MPH/Institutional Residency at the Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences. Congratulations to Kit.

RADIATION PROTECTION BADGES

The Area would like to ensure that all persons taking part in the radiation protection badge program are getting results mailed to them. The Radiation Protection Safety Officer at your facility should be sharing the

results with you. The Chief, EHSS (Bruce Etchison) does receive copies but needs to know if each facility is receiving copies from Proxtronics. If you do not know what your recent badge readings are, then call Bruce at 218-444-0501 for a fax copy of your facilities quarterly results.

CALENDAR



July-

16th, Sault Ste. Marie Injury Conference, Kewadin Casino, 8:30AM-4:00PM

26th, Fond du Lac Pollution Prevention Program, Black Bear Hotel Lake Hall Conference Room, 9:00AM-3:30PM

August-

6th-10th, Supervisor's Training, Bemidji

7th-10th, Sleep-Safe Workshop, Denver, CO

7th-10th, Wastewater Training Course, Suttons Bay (Steve Vencel has regis. info)

15-16, DOD Environmental Seminar, Chicago, Ill.

Sept.-

6th-7th, APIC-MN Infection Control Conference, DECC-Duluth, MN

18-19th, Risk Mgt. of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, Cincinnati, Ohio